

NYE IS IN BUNCOMBE

ABDOMINAL SURGERY AND WHERE IT FIRST ORIGINATED.

The Peculiarities of Genius as Illustrated by the Favorite Discourse of Elder Humley—Story of a Man Who Looked Upon Soda Water for the First Time.

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AT HOME, SUMMER OF '95.

It is not generally known that in this immediate neighborhood the first steps were taken in the direction of abdominal surgery, a branch of the science which has since grown so great. It was not so many years ago in these mountains that a party of young men on an autumn evening started gayly off with their musical instruments to serenade the youth and beauty of Buncombe county.

Chestnuts and green apples were falling anon in the chaste moonlight, and here and there little private jag foundries sent up their thin blue coils of smoke to mock the internal revenue officer and bring the flush of shame to the nose of the pioneer.

Between green apples and the twanging of the lyre the evening wore pleasantly on till at last one of the young



ELDER HUMLEY'S SERMON.

man grossly insulted the violinist, when quick as thought a pruning knife flashed forth, and with a shrill cry the offender fell to earth with his whole system of doing business exposed to the prying eyes of the world.

The pruning knife not only slashed open the whole abdominal cavity, but laid the stomach itself open, while at the same time the curve or hook at the end of the blade drew the stomach out on the grass in such a way as to make the gent's supper menu no longer a secret.

Naturally the wound was regarded as fatal. No one had ever heard at that time of repairing a fractured renet, and, far from medical assistance, weeping friends gathered about the young man's prostrate form, for every one realized that even this phenomenal climate, which for years has endured the cemetery out of its dividends, could not save him.

It was at this supreme moment that the woman of the house came forth and honored her sex (this is a matter of history, and the facts and photographs are in the hands of Dr. Hilliard, Asheville, N. C.).

Carefully removing the contents and preface of the stomach, consisting of chestnuts and Rhode Island greenings, she cleaned the cut, and then taking the catgut "E" string of the violin she softened it, and with a needle sewed up the stomach, returned it to the vast watch pocket and then sewed that up carefully also.

Of course she did not embroider a touch of goldenrod over the wound, but yet the job was on the hole a tidy one. A physician from Asheville came the next day, looked at the patient, took his temperature and smoking tobacco, said, "Pooh!" and went away.

But the man stubbornly lived on and on, and today a surgeon thinks no more of prying into a man's true inwardness than he would of pulling a tooth.

This was the pioneer operation for grafting the catgut on the human being. What the result may be in future generations we cannot even tell. The scientist cannot even tell what one's feelings may be under such circumstances (Scottish plaid joke).

They can only go on crocheting people together here, and as the fizzling, sizzling, hissing, steaming glass was held up to the tall clay hiter's nose one of his companions, an overgrown primrose 8 feet high, with a neat new calico rag on his scro toe, jumped toward him wildly to stay his hand.

"My God, Pink," said he, "be you going to drink the like of that and hit a bilin?"

Those desiring absolute purity and innocence of court intrigue or the guile so common to the maddening crowd should look us over before going elsewhere.

DRINKING IT "BILIN."

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Bill Nye

Teaching Tally to Hide.



—New York World.

GOING HOME TO HANNAH.

He Knew That She Would Be Glad to Have Him Return.

When he had asked me the way to the Forty-second street ferry and added that he wanted to catch a West Shore train he said:

"Hanner was purty nigh right about New York."

"Who is Hannah, and what did she tell you?" I asked.

"Hanner's my old woman. I'd bin wantin to cum down to New York fur ten y'ars, but sunthin was allus happenin. I finally made up my mind to cum arter the corn had bin hoed out, and I got here last Thursday. Hanner said I'd be robbed of my watch."

"And were you?"

"I was. Yes, sir, I lost it the first day I got here. Somebody stole it while I was gawpin around. Hanner will grin when I hev to tell her about it. She also said I'd be robbed of my money."

"And did that happen?"

"She did. Yes, sir. A feller got my wallet while I was ridin on a street car, and I never knowed it till he was gone. Hanner will laugh herself to death when I tell her about it. She also told me I'd get lost."

"And did you?"

"This was well enjoyed by the many"

"Got lost over a dozen times, sir. Yes, sir, got reg'ly turned around and was scart 'most to death. Hanner will throw up both hands and shout over that. She also said I'd git run over and killed."

"But you still live."

"Yes; kinder live, but I've bin run over five times and purty badly bruised. Hanner will almost bust when I show her my bruises. She also said I'd git into a fight and git killed."

"But you didn't?" I asked.

"Didn't I? Well, but I did! I had two fights and got licked in both of 'em. Hanner will lay down and roll over on the floor when she sees this skinned nose."

"And so you are on your way home?" I asked.

"Yes, goin hum. Met a feller I knowed and borrowed money 'nuff to git hum on. I've bin down here and had fun and a good time, and now I'm goin to see Hanner. She'll be standin at the gate and lookin fur me, and as I'm along up to her she'll look me over and down and all over and say, 'Nigger, Samuel, if you've made a fule of yerself long 'nuff cum in here and git a piece of blackberry pie, and a glass of milk, and then I'll tell them hows and elvies and cum and taters and ask the Lord to fudge you fur bein the reckless critter ye ar!'"

—Detroit Free Press.

Hard Times Indeed.

"Mamma, I think it's awful funny about Jimmie Watts."

"What is?"

"You know he can beat any of us boys swimming."

"Yes?"

"Well, he hasn't brag about it at home, 'cause his daddy'd lick 'im for goin." —Chicago Record.

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